



AGRICULTURAL POLICY FOR THE SICA REGION 2019-2030





AGRICULTURAL POLICY FOR THE SICA REGION 2019-2030

This document was elaborated with the financial support of the Republic of China (Taiwan) through the Project **"Promotion of Regional Agribusiness Value Chains and Family Farming inclusion with a Climate Change approach in ECADERT territories"**, and its design and editing with the support of the Interamerican Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture.



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) 2019



Política agropecuaria de la región SICA 2019-2030 = Agricultural policy for the SICA region 2019-2030 by CAC - IICA is

published under license Creative Commons

Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO (CC-BY-SA 3.0 IGO)

(<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/igo/>)

Based on a work at www.iica.int

IICA encourages the fair use of this document. Proper citation is requested.

This publication is also available in electronic (PDF) format from the Institute's web site:
<http://www.iica.int>.

Editorial coordination: Ricardo Montero López

Translation: Ronald Araya

Layout: Carlos Umaña

Cover design: Carlos Umaña

Printing: IICA Print Shop

Política agropecuaria de la región SICA 2019-2030 = Agricultural policy for the SICA region 2019-2030 / Central American Agricultural Council, Central American Integration System. – San Jose, C.R. : IICA, 2019.

44 p.; 15,24 cm X 22,86 cm.

ISBN: 978-92-9248-862-8

1. Land policies 2. International cooperation 3. Agricultural sector 4. Agricultural development 5. Government departments 6. Rural development 7. Integration 8. Assessment 9. Central America I. CAC II. SICA III. Title

AGRIS

DEWEY

E14

338.187 28

San Jose, Costa Rica

2019

CENTRAL AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL

Mr. Godwin Hulse

Minister de Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment,
Sustainable Development and Immigration
Belize

Mr. Renato Alvarado Rivera

Minister of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry
Costa Rica

Mr. Orestes Ortez Andrade

Minister of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry
El Salvador

Mr. Mario Méndez Montenegro

Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food
Guatemala

Mr. Mauricio Guevara Pinto

Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock
Honduras

Mr. Edward Centeno Gadea

Minister of Agriculture
Nicaragua

Mr. Eduardo Enrique Carles

Minister of Agricultural Development
Panama

Mr. Osmar Benítez

Minister of Agriculture
Dominican Republic



Contents

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS	7
I. Background	11
II. General Framework	13
III. Challenges and Opportunities from the Agricultural Sector that Justify a Regional Action	17
IV. Strategic Orientation	27
<i>A. Scope</i>	27
<i>B. Principles</i>	27
<i>C. Stakeholders</i>	28
<i>D. General Objective</i>	28
V. Strategic Areas, Lines of Action and Measures	31
VI. Articulation Strategies	41
VII. Organization of the Implementation	41
VIII. Policy Monitoring and Evaluation	43



ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
ALIDES	Central American Sustainable Development Alliance
SDACC	Sustainable Development Adapted to Climate Change
ASTI	Science and Technology Indicator Program
ARISIP	Regional Inter Sector Agenda on Equal Social Protection and Production Inclusion
IDB	Inter American Development Bank
CAC	Central American Agricultural Council
CC	Climate Change
CCCED	Central American Commission for the Environment and Development
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CEPREDENAC	Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America
CEPAL	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
IPPC	International Plan Protection Convention
CIS	Social Integration Council
COMISCA	Central American Ministers of Health Council
COMITRAN	Regional Technical Commission on Mobility and Logistics from the Sectoral Council Ministries of Transportation of Central America
COMMCA	Council of Ministers of Women Affairs from Central America and Dominican Republic
COP21	Paris Agreement on Climate Change
CSC	Central American Dry Corridor
DR-CAFTA	Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement
EASAC	2018-2030 Strategy on Sustainable Development Adapted to Climate Change for the SICA Region
ECADERT	Central American Strategy on Territorial Rural Development: 2010-2030
ENSO	El Niño-Southern Oscillation
ERAM	Regional Environmental Framework Strategy
ERAS	Agro-Environmental and Health Regional Strategy
RCCS	Regional Climate Change Strategy

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IICA	Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IPCC	Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change
ODECA	Organization of Central American States
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
OIRSA	Regional International Organization for Agricultural Health
UN	United Nations
OSPESCA	Central American Organization of Fisheries and Aquaculture
PACA	Central American Agriculture Policy 2008-2017
PAFCIA	Policy on Family Farming, Farmers, Indigenous and Afro descendent Agriculture in the SICA Region
PAR	SICA's Agricultural Policy
POLSAN	Central America-Dominican Republic Food Security and Nutrition Policy
POR-FRUTAS	Regional Policy on Fruticulture Development: 2011-2025
PRIEG/SICA	SICA Regional Policy on Gender Equality and Equity
FSFS	Food Security and Food Safety
SICA	Central American Integration System
SIECA	Central American Economic Integration Secretariat
MES	Monitoring and Evaluation System
AVA	Agricultural Value-Added



Presentation

The regional integration of countries of SICA is the outcome of a political decision and coordinated effort of actions that has enabled its eight member states to act in an articulated manner regarding a series of challenges and opportunities, under a collective approach.

For the agricultural sector, this decision and effort was captured in the 2008-2017 Central American Agriculture Policy, approved by the Central American Agricultural Council and by the Heads of State and Government of SICA on October 19th and December 12th, respectively.

This policy set a milestone for the agricultural sector of the SICA region. From this moment on, new and complementary initiatives were formulated, as well as the Agro-Environmental and Health Regional Strategy, the 2010-2030 Central American Strategy on Territorial Rural Development, the Regional Policy on Fruticulture Development, the Strategy on Sustainable Development Adapted to Climate Change of the SICA Region, the Central American-Dominican Republic Food Security and Nutrition Policy (POLSAN), the Policy on Family Farming, Farmers, Indigenous and Afro descendent Agriculture of the SICA Region (PAFCIA).

In this regard, the consideration of technological advances, its latent effects, the vulnerability of the region regarding Climate Change, the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals and an increasingly complex international economic landscape are factors that will frame the new regional policy, where the joint collaboration of the region will provide additional value towards the efforts made by each of the countries.

On behalf of SICA's Council of Ministers of Agriculture (CAC) I want to express my sincerest appreciation to the technical groups, officials from the various public and private institutions, farmers, development partners and support organizations who have participated in the broad formulation process of this 2019-2030 SICA Regional Agricultural Policy, carried out through national consultations in the eight member states, regional technical consultations, and contributions from subject matter experts, which constitute the substantial basis of this Policy.

Mario Méndez Montenegro
Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food
CAC Chair pro tempore
26 April 2019





I. Background

On December 12th, 2007, the 2008-2017 Central American Agriculture Policy (PACA) was endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of SICA as a “key instrument to strengthen regional integration, as well as promoting greater access to the benefits of a regional integration by small and medium sized farmers and the complementarities between public and private sectors”.

The formulation of PACA was the first large-scale effort by the agricultural sector to establish a regional policy instrument through a process of technical dialogue and open consultation with other stakeholders from the public and private sectors- both domestic and regional. This methodology was reproduced and streamlined with the formulation of other instruments of regional policy of CAC.

This approval was the outcome of intense collaboration in order to comply with the commitments acquired in Art. 21 of the Protocol to the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration, in which the Member States “agree to gradually implement a Central American Agricultural Policy that advocates streamlining and reconverting production systems in order to improve efficiency and competitiveness”.

PACA managed to provide a significant evolution, especially at the institutional level. Regional Coordination bodies were established beyond the Council of Ministers that was oriented in developing a regional agenda and coordinating national policies and actions.

The governing body on agricultural matters responsible for implementing this policy within the Central American Integration System is the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), established in 1991 and integrated by the Ministers of Agriculture, or competent authority of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and The Dominican Republic.

The 2008-2017 Central American Agricultural Policy concentrated its efforts on the axis of competitiveness and agribusiness, as well as financing and risk management, which obeyed the regional contextual circumstances and priorities, at the moment of its formulation. It also included transversal issues in the area of small agricultural business, agro-environmental management and institutional development. At the end of its term, the policy did not manage to cover all the measures and lines of action, mainly due to a lack of instruments of accountability that would have allowed CAC to propose the necessary adjustments and improvements in order to ensure a proper impact and fully attaining policy objectives.

The 2008-2017 PACA did provide lessons learned regarding the implementation process, including the need of establishing a policy and regional strategies monitoring, follow up and evaluation mechanism. Furthermore, it should also be considered as a guideline framework to formulate national policies with connectors that contribute towards a regional integration, the generation of regional public assets, inter-institutional interactions, the development of sub-regional and/or cross-border programs on innovation, health and food safety, competitiveness, climate change, risk management, emergency attention, regional standards, attraction of foreign investment, business ventures, value addition, among others.

Since late 2017, CAC has prioritized the formulation of a new regional policy to provide continuation and to adjust itself to the current realities and challenges of the future. It is then that the agricultural sector can substantially collaborate in developing the SICA countries according to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

This policy establishes a strengthened regional agricultural agenda that is aligned to global instruments and regional mandates. It is articulated with other policies, and sector and inter-sectoral strategies from the Central American Integration System. Furthermore, it is compatible with the priorities and interest of business productive sectors and small and medium sized farmer organizations.

Due to the current complexities of economic development and in order to achieve effective agricultural policies it must be integrated into a broader process that is linked to other sectors, such as commercial, economic, social, environmental, educational, health, infrastructure, financial, energy and security, with a focus on inclusion, so that it can also consider vulnerable populations and engage them in the development of the region.

During the process of elaborating the policy, contributions from multiple stakeholder have been obtained through national consultation in the eight countries from the SICA Region, consultation to regional public and private organizations, academia, small and medium size farmers, farmers' associations, support bodies, among others. An additional element contemplated in the process was constituted by the different national policies of SICA countries, and its themed structures were the basis to define strategic areas.

The review and prioritization of policy themes was carried out by five Regional Specialized Technical Groups and by the Regional Technical Committee of CAC. The Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) also provided technical support and accompaniment during the final stages of elaboration of the policy. The Policy was approved finally by the CAC's Council of Ministers on 26 of April 2019.



II. General Framework

One of the most relevant characteristics of SICA's Agricultural Policy is that it will be implemented within an international setting in which all countries of the region have made a commitment with high level global agreements. These include, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable development approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations; the Third International Conference on Financing for Development: Addis Ababa Action Agenda; The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; the Paris Agreement adopted by UN nations within the Framework of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (COP21); The Papal Encyclical *Laudato si'* regarding the care of the common house; the Decade for Family Farming 2019-2029; the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) y el International Decade for People of African Descent.

Similarly, in the Framework of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), there is a CELAC Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication by 2025 approved during the III CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in San José, Costa Rica, on 28 -29 of January 2015.

Within this same scope, a Disaster Risk Management regional strategy for the Agricultural and Food Security and Nutrition for Latin America and the Caribbean (2018- 2030) was established during IV Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming and Rural development held on 12 - 13 December 2017 in San Salvador, El Salvador.

Within the Inter American System, CAC member countries form part of the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). Since 2018, IICA has defined new areas of technical cooperation in the Mid-Term Plan 2019-2022, which is based on five hemispheric programs. These are targeted on the actions of the institutional program in identifying actions of cooperation through the design and implementation of projects. Also, it will provide technical accompaniment to governments and other social and economic stakeholders in agriculture and rural life in the American continent.

The five programs are: Bio-economy and Production development; Territorial Development y Family Farming; International trade and Regional Integration; Climate Change, Natural Resources and Production Risk management; Agricultural health, Food Safety and Quality. These are integrated, transversally, with two programs that contribute to the five hemispheric programs: Innovation and Technology; Gender and youth.

In the SICA region, the Agricultural Policy is articulated with policies and strategies from other sectors under an inter-sectoral and systemic vision, as well as with other policies and strategies that are promoted and adopted by CAC, which include:

- Summit of Heads of State and Government in 1994.
- The Regional Climate Change Strategy (RCCS) revised in 2018 under a new implementation plan 2018-2022, that complements the Regional Environmental Framework Strategy (ERAM), both promoted by the Central American Commission for the Environment and Development (CCCED)
- The Central American Policy on the Integral Management of Disaster Risks, harmonized with The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, lead by the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC)
- The Central American-Dominican Republic Food Security and Nutrition Policy (POLSAN), approved by CAC, the Social Integration Council (CIS) and the Central American Ministers of Health Council (COMISCA)
- The Regional Framework Policy on Mobility and Logistics of Central America, elaborated by the Regional Technical Commission on Mobility and Logistics of the Sectors' Council of Central American Ministers of Transportation (COMITRAN) and the Central American Economic Integration Secretariat (SIECA)
- The Regional Policy on Gender Equality and Equity from the Central American Integration System (PRIEG/SICA), endorsed by the Council of Ministers of Women Affairs from Central America and Dominican Republic (COMMCA)
- The Inter-Sector Regional Agenda on Equal Social Protection and Production Inclusion 2018-2030 (ARISIP), currently under consultation and endorsed by several bodies of SICA, among them, CAC.
- The Policy on Fisheries and Aquaculture Integration 2015-2025, lead by the Central American Organization of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OSPESCA)

Also within the scope of the SICA Region, is the coordination of actions with the Regional Agency of Agricultural Health (OIRSA), which also includes all the Ministries of Agriculture that are also members of CAC.

Additionally, CAC has a regional framework of regional policies and strategies that can also be considered for its articulation or alignment with this policy:

- The Strategy on Sustainable Development Adapted to Climate Change for the SICA Region 2018-2030 (EASAC), which by decision of the Council of Ministers, was incorporated as one of the components of this regional policy.
- The Central American Strategy on Territorial Rural Development: 2010-2030 (ECADERT)
- The Regional Policy on Fruticulture Development: 2011-2025 (POR-FRUTAS)
- The Policy on Family Farming, Farmer's, Indigenous and Afro-descendent Agriculture from the SICA Region 2018-2030 (PAFCIA).





III. Challenges and Opportunities from the Agricultural Sector that Justify a Regional Action

Throughout the years, agricultural and animal husbandry activities has been an element of great importance for the economic and social development base of SICA countries, basically because it has represented opportunities to generate an addition of value in all productive sectors. Agriculture continues being the main economic activity and source of employment that is affected by several factors that affect the development of the agricultural sector.

One of the main aspects that threatens the performance of the agricultural sector in the SICA Region is precisely the vulnerability created by the impact of extreme hydro meteorological events, resulting from climate variability. The constant exposure to climate phenomenon affects the levels of productivity within the production chains, its quality and the availability of food; this translates into recurring economic losses that directly affect its competitiveness.

Another negative element in the development of agricultural activities is the dynamics from migration and the aging of the rural population. With this consideration, the Regional Agricultural Policy has the challenge of expanding its options in diversifying rural economies with the intention of mitigating the migration phenomenon, as well as improving access to infrastructure and services to the agricultural sector.

In order to achieve a sustainable improvement in competitiveness of the agro sector of the region, the Policy must consider different elements that strengthens public-private investment, the specialization of the workforce, diversification and value addition in the agro-chain, sectoral technological development and innovation, the elimination of intra-regional barriers to trade, as well as business strategies for small and medium size farmers.

Economic and Productive Performance

During the last decade, with the measurement of the Agricultural Added Value (AVA), the agricultural sector has shown a slight increase in countries of the region, albeit at a slower pace from the economy as a whole.

Regarding the performance on exports from the agro-sector, it has been the primary products that have provided the greatest contribution. During 2016, among the top ten exportable products and relevant to Central America are agricultural goods, such as coffee, banana, sugar, fruits, palm oil and shellfish. This exportable offer has varied significantly in the past three years. The USA is the main destination country, concentrating approximately 50% of the region's exports. These products, contribute quite significantly towards the region's GDP. For example, exports from coffee, banana and sugar represented an average 22% of the GDP for Central America for this year.

Agro-exports, including those that add value, contributed a great percentage to the region's economy. However, its performance is limited because of the insufficient capability in influencing international prices for those agricultural products; and therefore the economies depend on the international price trends.

Another element that may affect the performance of the agro-sector, which is being faced by Central America and Dominican Republic for the next ten years, is the process of tax or tariff relief of "sensitive" agricultural products, from products included in the DR-CAFTA Free Trade Agreement, which came into effect in 2006 (1). The majority of sensitive products (2) will be completely tariff-free between 2021 and 2024.

According to estimates from the IDB, tariff breaks will have a positive impact on consumer surpluses and social welfare that will help reduce or eliminate social efficiency losses created by tax protections. However, for several agricultural goods, producers need to increase their productivity so they won't be severely affected by DR-CAFTA tariff classifications.

Those products sensitive to tariff breaks are affected differently in countries of the region, because most lack harmonized tariffs. This situation becomes a weakness due to different country protection schemes. If the main agricultural chains do not achieve the levels of competitiveness required by the end of the tariff break process, then it is estimated that DR-CAFTA can generate income losses for farmers in the region.

Therefore, the agro sector from the SICA Region must formulate strategies and policies directed at increasing production performance of the sector. It is also necessary to implement measures adapted to climate change and mitigate such effect; greater investment in research, development and innovation, as well as increasing competitiveness of the agro-food sector in order to

confront the challenges from the trade opening, and dependence on international prices and climate variability that impacts the region.

On the other hand, small farmers in Central America and Dominican Republic in general do not have access to research that allows optimizing production, including lower levels of associativity to commercialize their surpluses. They tend to sell their products, individually, without adding value, which in turn yields in lesser opportunities to improve their income. The capacity to prosper and improve their condition of live through intermediation is quite limited; in this sense it can only be achieved through proper organization.

This phenomenon is probably the result of all of the above. Studies from different institutions – national and international – such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) indicate three key factors as triggers of migration flows: poverty and socio economic exclusion; criminal violence and organized crime; and family reunification.

When a place has deficient work, safety, salary, sanitary or education conditions, people tend to migrate because they simply cannot change their reality, which generates the idea or need to migrate.

The opportunities developed in rural areas through innovative projects directed at attending the causes of migration, undoubtedly play a crucial role. Possibilities can be arranged from the agricultural sector to prevent migration, especially in youth.

Regarding rural areas and the agricultural sector, projects must be capable of promoting local development, improving a better quality of life, strengthening capacities, optimizing production investments, supporting businesses, accessing innovative technologies, and promoting gender equality and equity and a culture of peace.

The promotion of innovation in rural territories must be considered as strategic. However, typically there are strong limitations, such as the lack of capital, limited access to innovative ideas and specialized competences, as well as a tendency to depend excessively on external initiatives.

Efforts regarding innovation, migration and development helps to increase, albeit partially, these limitations because remittances- under a ad hoc scheme, manages to establish privileged sources of access to capital.

Agriculture and rural development can contribute, greatly, in responding to the challenges of the region. In this regards, the Policy can significantly contribute through the following actions:

- Identify programs and current resources to be reoriented to support sectoral actions and projects.
- Design public policies directed at small family farming and promote the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.
- Project management oriented to the following objectives:
 - Support small family farming and create alternative and sustainable livelihood in rural areas, with special emphasis on women and youth.
 - Diversify non-farming activities, effective rural services and investments in value chains linked to sustainable farming.
 - Provide rural education and professional formation based on the needs of the labor market.
 - Foster sustainable farming practices to confront the impacts of climate change and promote adequate management of natural resources and increase productivity.
 - Improve access to land, credit and markets for displaced people, with special emphasis on women and disadvantaged youth.
 - Provide support for the participation of youth and women in organizations and co-operatives.

The initiatives promoted by the agricultural sector must include an integral and expanded vision, with access to basic services and productive aspects from the sector, such as: access to innovative technologies, information and communication technologies, the development of farms to diversify crops and family diets. It must also help optimize the production according to local, regional and national markets, as well as organizing farming literacy strategies to aid in the adoption of sustainable farming techniques.

Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change

Climate Change (CC) is increasing the probabilities of greater, more frequent and extreme hydro meteorological phenomenon. Rainfall patterns have been modified, increasing the impact of draught, flooding and heat waves. This modification in weather causes devastating effects on agricultural production that severely impacts the economy, food security and nutrition of the region.

In recent years, we have seen that tropical regions, precisely the SICA region, extreme events arising from climate change have been more intense and stronger compared to other parts of the world. This will only get stronger and more intense. The commitments made by countries that ratified the Paris Agreement are simply insufficient to limit global warming to 1,5 °C between 2030 y 2052; significant changes are required, with action of adaptation and mitigation.

The Central American Dry Corridor (CSC), the Dry Arch of Panama and the arid region of the Dominican Republic are among those that are prone to suffer from the catastrophic impacts of climate change. According to recent studies, the last thirty years have resulted in losses that are estimated at over US\$ 5B, caused mainly by the effects of draught on the production of basic grains.

An example of this was seen in the 2014-2015 draught, considered as one of the worst in the past thirty years. This severely affected basic grain crops with enormous losses to other agricultural activities throughout the region.

Climate anomalies associated to rain and draught, mainly caused and related to the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon, has jeopardized the security of food of small farming families at risk, especially those in Central America, specifically those living in territories located within the Dry Corridor. The diet of thousands of families depends mainly on basic grains, such as corn and beans.

In addition to affecting the economic and agricultural production systems of the region, climate change also has deep social impacts that tend to increase poverty, aggravated by the insecurity of food and the rising inequalities between men and women. Furthermore, there is a greater concentration of poverty in rural areas, where women and children tend to live below the poverty limit and are disproportionately affected (1).

In Central America, a high percentage of land used for farming is located in the mountainous areas with steep hillsides, highly deforested and heavily eroded lands. Families that farm these degraded lands have very low resources

to improve production, plus they tend to use practices that are considered as unfriendly to the environment, such as cut and burn practices that increases GHG emissions and generate crop vulnerabilities and low productivity. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen programs on innovation and research that allow technological validation of a small scale, resilient and sustainable agro-forestry model.

By reducing deforestation, avoiding inadequate cut and burn practices, planting trees, reducing land tilling, increasing land coverage, using crop rotation, promoting technologies related to rainfall water harvesting and the use of efficient irrigation systems, improving microbiological quality and soil nutrients, promoting the use of bio-supplies, optimizing the improvement of biodiversity through the use of native corn and bean seed varieties, as well as combining farming with other types of crops, such as roots, tubercles and musaceous plants and interacting with a multi-stratified agro-forestry system will allow compensating for thousand of tons of carbon, diversifying production, minimizing risk and increasing the resilient capacity of farmers and their families.

In recent years climate variability has lead to draughts aggravated by the ENSO phenomenon at the beginning of the planting cycles, especially in the Central American Dry Corridor. This has caused the loss of 50% to 90 % of the areas for harvesting. As a consequence, 1.6 Million people were affected by food insecurity in 2016 (FAO, 2016). CEPAL stated that corn and bean yields would tend to decline according to climate forecast from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

According to estimates from CEPAL (2015), main basic grain yields from the region will be significantly affected in the next decades due to a total lack of adaptation measures. Corn, bean and rice yields may be reduced by up to 35%, 43% and 50% respectively, compared to past decades.

The economic loss from crops and food insecurity seen in the region due to climate variability is also affecting the migration phenomenon in Central America, accentuated during the 2017-2018 period, especially Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

Even though Climate Change currently is not the main direct cause for migratory displacement, the World Bank estimates that by 2050 more than 3.9 million Central Americans will have to abandon their countries. They will become “climate migrants” caused by the impact of extreme climatic events, which in turn, will worsen the economy of the region.

With this grim landscape, it is crucial and urgent to reinforce measures to adapt agriculture to climate change and mitigate such dire events; especially the need of increasing resilience of the Central American Dry Corridor and the arid areas of Dominican Republic. The region requires a sense of transformation, which implies providing proper technical-financial support, promoting knowledge management and education, increased capacity-building, as well as using efforts and advances obtained by the population dedicated to farming. Furthermore, deepening regional integration can contribute in attaining agreements to promote the adoption of inclusive and sustainable strategies oriented to reducing the vulnerabilities of countries.

Investment in agricultural research, development and innovation (R+D+I)

The current challenges faced by the Central American agricultural sector regarding the improvement of economic, production performance and the strengthening of agro-chain competitiveness and the adaptation to climate change, are directly related to the low investments made by the region in agricultural research, development and innovation (R+D+I) in recent years.


According to data from the Science and Technology Indicator Program (ASTI), the countries from the region compared to the rest of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), operate with smaller agricultural research systems. This is reflected by the low levels of research and development made in agriculture, which affect productivity of the sector. If the investment in R&D is analyzed in the agro GDP, we see the majority of countries actually allocate approximately between 0,5 % and 1,1 %.

Even though innovation is crucial to strengthening and developing the agro sector, R+D+I has been negatively affected by an insufficient number of researchers employed by the sector and by the disassociation that exists in the lines of research regarding the demands of the productive sectors.

A sector with opportunities

Albeit the overwhelming challenges faced by the agro-sector in the SICA region, it is also important to envision the opportunities to be exploited in the following years.

This region has been favored with a demographic advantage that will only increase in time: it has the highest production-age youth population percentage



in history. This creates a window of opportunities and a potential scenario for socio economic development. It represents an opportunity for agriculture to improve its production levels and for rural territories to reactivate their economy with available human capital. However, in order to optimize this economic advantage, it requires the countries to articulate efforts and invest in resources that improve the economic, social and political conditions.

The agro-sector must facilitate the insertion of rural youth and women into the agricultural value chains, as well as developing agricultural business ventures under a renovated, innovative focus, with a greater use of technology. It is therefore crucial that country authorities execute actions to incorporate this population in agriculture, such as facilitating access to credit, and agro-insurance, fostering agrarian technical education in rural areas to allow youth and women to improve their capacities and agricultural skills, ensuring better work conditions for farmers, strengthening outreach processes and technical assistance, including the promotion of adequate, clean and inexpensive technologies.

The insertion of the agro-sector in tourism is another way to reactivate the development of rural areas. Agro-tourism, rural tourism and ecological tourism offer family farmers and rural territories with an alternative to diversify their economic activities, promote agro-industry, generate additional income and a greater work offer. Similarly, these tourism modalities create a space to assess the cultural importance of rural communities, the agricultural sector, natural assets and its conservation.

The agro-sector has the opportunity to benefit from the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) at a very low cost by using linking strategies with farmers, particularly small and medium size farmers. Smart phones, tablets and the Internet have turned into key and indispensable tools for the operation of many agro-businesses. In certain cases, it has originated changes in the modes of agricultural production, and the development of capacities through self-learning and access to quick information (on markets, early alerts, climate conditions, innovation, among other aspects) for decision-making.

The adoption of new technologies, allows crop and livestock productivity and efficiency to be optimized, and therefore conserving natural resources and minimizing the impact on the environment. Examples of these advances are digital technologies, the use of sensors, big data, artificial intelligence and drones.

Climate change is also forcing the Central American agro-sector to promote scientific research and the development of new tools and technologies that contribute towards the process of adaptation and mitigation. Biotechnology has made it possible to have new biological agro-supplies that contaminate the environment to a lesser degree.





IV. Strategic Orientation

A. Scope

The SICA Agricultural Policy includes three levels of scope that will help guide CAC member countries regarding the temporal, geographical and thematic focus, as well as facilitating the implementation, follow-up and evaluation:

- The Policy has a period of execution that initiates with the approval of CAC's Council of Ministers and ends on 31 December of 2030. It includes the actions from eight member countries of CAC: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and The Dominican Republic.
- For purposes of the policy, agricultural sector will be understood as an extended concept. Therefore, national and regional institutionality will be supported with the intention of covering, activities from primary production that are resilient to climate change, production transformation to add value, as well as revitalizing product trade in several markets. This requires a focus on competitive and innovative agro-productive chains that helps foster inclusion and the engagement of farmers (small and medium, with specific interest in family farming units), organizations, associations and agro-production businesses.
- The Policy must create links and spaces for dialogue with other relevant sectors of regional integration with the purpose of achieving synergies and increasing the potential impact on the agricultural sector.

B. Principles

The Policy is based on the principles established in the Tegucigalpa Protocol to the Charter of Organization of Central American States (ODECA) and the Protocol of Guatemala to the General Treaty on Economic Integration, regarding: complementarity, co-responsibility, gender equality and equity, social inclusion and protection, inter-sectorality, participation, accountability and transparency, respect of cultural and ethnic diversity, sustainability, subsidiarity and integration.

With the purpose of articulating the Principles, the policy will prioritize three of these to complete the scope: integration, inter-sectorality, and gender equality and equity.

Regional integration is a multi-dimensional process with expressions that include initiatives of coordination, cooperation, convergence and deep integration, which scope not just covers economic and commercial themes, but also political, social, cultural and environmental issues as well.

Inter-sectorality recognizes the much-needed relationship between sectors and the trans-sectorality of complex issues with shared responsibilities, and incorporates directed actions to prevent gaps and duplicity of efforts and the generation of synergies. This implies executing actions of articulation and coordination with other sectors of regional institutionality.

Gender equality and equity ensures that men and women have access to opportunities and results of an agricultural development that is sustainable, competitive, inclusive and adapted to variability, such as climate change, in all of its scopes. This implies contributing towards the elimination of discriminatory practices, obstacles and barriers (legal and institutional, cultural and ideological) and implement special temporary measures directed in offering greater advantages to women throughout their entire life cycle in order to have access to economic, social, political and cultural development.

C. Stakeholders

The Stakeholders of this policy, include the national and regional institutionalism of the agricultural sector, farmers as main stakeholders of the policy, farming organizations, sector associations (national and regional), agro-production businesses, goods and service providers, agro-industry, marketers, consumers, academia and multilateral cooperation agencies.

The other relevant stakeholders that help amplify the impact of the policy are those that are related to SICA's institutional scope and to the particularities of the national institutionality.

D. General Objective

To promote a sustainable agricultural sector that is adapted to climate, inclusive, competitive, regionally articulated, conceived as an extended sector, capable of adapting to new roles and opportunities, capable of fostering the integration between the public and private sector, and other Stakeholders that participate direct or indirectly in the development of the agricultural sector, the rural environment and agro-productive chains, with the following intention:

- Foster competitiveness and agro-business to revitalize market trade.
- Contribute towards innovation and technological development for transformation and value addition.
- Ensure agricultural health and food safety for an adequate food and nutritional security of the region.
- Foster a primary production that is resilient to climate variability through a Sustainable Development Adapted to Climate Change.
- Strengthen an effective institutional articulation for a regional integration.





V. Strategic Areas, Lines of Action and Measures

Based on the sections that are currently contained in the instruments of sectoral policy, facilitated by each Ministry of Agriculture, the analysis of the national and regional environment and the consensus attained among CAC member countries, the following lines of action and measures are presented, prioritized by strategic area:

Strategic area: Competitiveness and agro-business

The Agricultural Policy must facilitate actions so that farmer's y farmer organizations can access local, regional and international markets with their products. Therefore, the sector must jointly elaborate a regional agenda that allows combining commercial and agricultural policies, in such a way that the domestic market can function with less distortions, which implies that the regional normative framework must be revised and readapted, as well as ensuring compliance.

SICA member countries must aim in consolidating efficient regional agricultural and agro-alimentary trade systems, with clear rules of operation, applying norms and regulations that can be implemented adequately and quickly; with an infrastructure that facilitates trade; with a modern On-Demand information access systems, competitors, prices and product costs; food quality and food safety standards; and labeling and metrology regulations that provide fair and reliable treatment among farmers, competitors and consumers.

The Agro-Export Sector has an enormous development potential resulting from the multiple existing regional trade agreements; and it is because of this fact that it is important to coordinate the proper application of the Agricultural Policy with strategies that help promote and increase exports. Particular attention must be placed on the existence of an attractive market for ethnic products in the USA and Canada, which is linked to the Central American and other Latin communities, which have an increasing capacity for consumption. This market must be the focus of a promotional campaign for regional exports. This can be extended to other consumer segments in places where this market niche can be exploited by the region's exporters.

The focus on this intra-regional market is an opportunity to develop new business ventures and to help develop small and mid sized farmers. In order to achieve this, substantial improvements must be made to those chains centered

on the intra-regional markets that allow strengthening strategies focused on exports. The agri-food sector plays a significant role in the exporting efforts from SICA countries. This can, and must be exploited, simply because they possess a comparative and competitive exporting advantage based on natural resources and biodiversity of the region, and its geographic location to crucial markets and the specialized tropical products it offers.

The Ministries of Agriculture must support the regional associations that make up the regional agricultural food chains in order to elaborate public and private agendas to formulate and execute, in conjunction with governments, a promotional strategy to resolve inefficiencies and barriers, and thus become more competitive. Therefore, it requires capacity-building, incentives and financing schemes, support and informational services for all stakeholders throughout the chain.

The strategic area of competitiveness and agro-business establishes the following components and measures:

A1.C1: Fomento del desarrollo empresarial del sector agropecuario, A1.C1: Promote business development of the agricultural sector, through a farmer's knowledge management base, the associativity and the generation value addition to increase the region's competitiveness.

- A1.C1.M1: Develop and strengthen the agro-business capacity of farmers by generating value addition.
- A1.C1.M2: Develop the associativity of the agricultural trade with business purposes.
- A1.C1.M3: Promote value addition to increase competitiveness.

A1.C2: Ensure the correct application of norms and regulations based on Technical and Scientific Principles of International Trade.

- A1.C2.M1: Improve institutional capacity for the application of procedures, norms and technical regulations of international trade.
- A1.C2.M2: Revise the legal framework to streamline the regional normative and establishing sanctions for norms and regulation non-compliance.

A1.C2.M3: Nationwide monitoring regarding the correct application of regional norms and regulations.

A1.C3: Develop a new normative regarding the demand on regionally organized sectors that help improve product and service competitiveness of the agro sector, as well as the derogation of non applicable normative.

A1.C3.M1: Strengthen the public-private dialogue between CAC and FECAGRO to determine priorities and proposals to improve the normative and regulations.

Strategic area: Sustainable Development Adapted to Climate Change

The agro sector from the SICA Region is vulnerable regarding climate variability and climate change. At the same time, it participates in the emission of greenhouse gases. The increment of the concentration of these gases causes an increase in the temperature of our planet. Similarly, the process of deterioration of our forests has been historically linked to the development of agricultural activities. However, the deforestation and the destruction of forest resources is a process that involves multiple causes and, in great measure, from socio-economic origin (illegal exploitation, lack of control over industrial activities, among others).

The adverse scenarios arising from climate variability, the recurring effects of El Niño Phenomenon, the vulnerabilities of the Central American Dry Corridor and low productivity and quality, has forced the region to assign an integral water management, land conservation, biodiversity protection and good agricultural practices as high priority to be used as mechanisms to confront draught and reduced productivity, as well as increasing resilience.

In order to face these challenges, a Sustainable Development that is Adapted to Climate Change seeks to: increase sustainable productivity, efficiently using our natural resources (water, land, biodiversity), including rural wellbeing and the improvement of life, by approaching it in synergy with the adaptation and management of risks (mechanisms of transfer of risks as insurance), as well as promoting production systems that allow reducing GHG and carbon capturing.

Therefore, the purpose of this strategic area is to promote agriculture that is resilient to the variability of region's climate, contemplating the challenges

of an integral water management, the recovery of degraded soils, risk management, and food security and nutrition. In this regard, the implementation of the 2018-2030 Strategy on Sustainable Development Adapted to Climate Change for the SICA Region (EASAC) must be considered as a mechanism to operate this strategic area.

The Sustainable Development Adapted to Climate Change strategic area establishes the following components and measures:

A2.C1. Promote risk management and the adaptation of agriculture into Climate variability and Climate Change.

A2.C1.M1.: Articulate the regional mechanisms of generation, exchange and effective use of climate and agro-climate information that help strengthen the decision-making processes, sector planning and regional, national and territorial capacities.

A2.C1.M2.: Promote the use of methodologies and standardized or harmonized models to assess risks, vulnerabilities, and the losses and damages in the agro sector, increasing knowledge of the relationship between productive systems and climate.

A2.C2. Manage Natural Resources in sustainable agricultural landscapes.

A2.C2.M1.: Promote good practices through the use of sustainable management techniques and the conservation of land, water, biodiversity and forests in agricultural landscapes.

A2.C2.M2.: Improve a regional agricultural plan based on prospective analysis and scenarios of climate variability for the efficient use of water, land and biodiversity.

Strategic area: Innovation and technological development

The agricultural sector is exposed to multiple stakeholders that affect its performance and competitiveness. It is for this reason that innovation is a stra-

tegic area of the regional policy. It must be managed based on adequately structured development initiatives, which responds to the needs of the demands of the value chain and are complemented with actions of exchange and outreach, in order to increase the rates of innovation adoption. One of the main inconveniences of innovative projects is the low adoption by potential users, as well as a low participation and low articulation with institutions responsible for agricultural research, exchange and outreach (public and private), as well as with farmer organizations.

It is important to direct efforts towards the assignment of resources destined to innovation, technological development and applied research that can positively impact the competitiveness of the region's agricultural sector. Based on this, it is necessary to increase public financing and incentives for an adequate private investment in research; fostering the development of new biotechnologies and the secure incorporation into the agro-food chain; harmonizing a proper policy framework to access genetic resources, intellectual property rights and bio-safety, all while respecting the sovereignty of countries and the rights of their communities.

The formation of human resources in the sector requires greater learning and using results and information regarding the generation and exchange of agricultural technology in order to improve productivity and profitability. These are basic aspects in training programs, because it strengthens the capacity of managing agro-businesses, especially with small farmers.

With capacity-building programs, it is indispensable to place special emphasis on the rural youth sector, through a differentiated education that leads to a change in the management of competences, through specialized educational programs and professional services regarding agro-food exchange technology.

This area seeks to foster – with the following measures- the development of technological innovation based on the demands of farmer organizations and productive sectors, as well as new national and regional schemes or platforms that enable creating applied research agendas, the exchange of knowledge and the technological adoption of public-private outreach systems. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to reinforce the capacities of the National Agrarian Innovation System and the private sector.

The strategic area on innovation and technological development establishes the following components and measures:

A3.C1. Articulate regional schemes of research, development and innovation that allow managing knowledge in the agricultural sector.

- A3.C1.M1. Formulate a proposal to establish a Regional Agricultural Innovation Center for the SICA region*, technological and research development.
- A3.C1.M2. Strengthen national agrarian innovation systems and promote a regional innovation system.

Strategic area: Agricultural health and Food Safety

Agricultural health increases productivity, improves the use of natural resources and increases the income of small farmers. A greater international trade has forced countries to reduce their risk on their natural assets, as well as mitigating the health risk to their consumers, by establishing sanitary and food safety regulations to access markets.

Agricultural health and food safety is a priority issue that requires improving sanitary and phyto sanitary systems, nationally and regionally. These directly impact the intra-regional and international trade through the application of normative frameworks, which must be revised periodically and require to be technically adjusted to international regulations.

Agricultural health services are responsible in applying regional and international norms on phyto-sanitary, zoo-sanitary and food safety matters, as well as the traceability of agricultural products. Therefore it is necessary to adequately plan national policies in order to positively impact the institutions that are responsible in applying sanitary norms; as well as articulating plans and programs with the private sector.

Within this context, it is crucially strategic to strengthen national and regional programs and projects on food quality and food safety assurance; risk analysis and management; domestic and export food processing plant inspection and approval. This facilitates the implementation of sanitary evaluation and verification procedures, such as production and manufacturing good practices, operational establishment sanitation standards, including hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP).

*In accordance with Agreement #11 from the Meeting of Ministers of CAC on 10 April 2018.

It is recommended that national policies take into consideration sanitary public investments as priority to further intra- and extra-regional trade. As well as, protecting regional sanitary assets and public health, through the use of adequate infrastructures to execute sanitary inspections at the border and facilitate the inspection of shipments.

These actions seek to: avoid damages and losses of production caused by disease and pest outbreaks in the region, as well as the impact on human health; prevent economic losses due to trade restrictions; establish and streamline regional normative in accordance with market requirements and ensure the development of capacities for the correct application of norms.

The strategic area on agricultural health and food safety establishes the following components and measures:

A4.C1. Revision of the FSFS Normative and Regional Technical Regulations.

- A4.C1.M1. Revise, harmonize and update the regional normative on agricultural health and food safety with the international normative (CODEX, IPPC, OIE and WTO AMSF).
- A4.C1.M2. Develop a regional management and information platform to design a FSFS normative.

A4.C2. Implement regional pest surveillance, early detection, control and eradication, and diseases based on economic or quarantine relevance systems.

- A4.C2.M1. Design regional surveillance and early detection systems in function of the needs of the country.
- A4.C2.M2. Create pest control and eradication, and diseases based on economic or quarantine relevance programs.
- A4.C2.M3. Design regional quality management and food safety programs.

A4.C3. FSFS capacity building and knowledge management.

- A4.C3.M1. Design regional programs to strengthen the capacities of technical groups of the institutions responsible for FSFS.
- A4.C3.M2. Design regional programs to strengthen the capacities of productive sectors.

Strategic area: Effective institutional articulation

Agricultural public policies have the purpose of providing mechanisms to facilitate production that is in harmony with the environment, and sector competitiveness, technology and innovation, health and food safety, technical assistance, among others aspects.

These mechanisms must be directed in accompanying primary productive processes, transformation and trade; creating an adequate business climate for creativity and innovation of productive processes, through the generation of public assets; and regulating sector economic activities so that it can be sustainable and equitable in adherence to national and international normative.

An effective engagement of the private sector is crucial to formulate coherent proposals for the implementation of the policy, creation of private goods, optimum utilization of public assets, and the efficient and transparent use of public resources. With this purpose, it is important to strengthen the mechanisms of coordination, dialogue and agreement.

With a focus on inter-sectorality, the Policy seeks to articulate the actions from the Ministries of Agriculture with the national institutions from the agricultural public sector and with other government dependencies. Equally, within the regional environment, it is necessary to establish synergies and complementarities among regional institutions and other multi-lateral agencies that contribute in achieving the objectives of the policy.

In order to increase the impacts and results of regional projects, systematic efforts must be made to identify, manage and follow-up on regional initiatives that favor compliance with the objectives of the policy.

The Executive Secretariat of the Central American Agricultural Council (SE-CAC) is responsible in ensuring the articulation and implementation of the lines of action and measures, as contemplated in the policy. Therefore, the SECAC

will seek the support of regional agencies defined by the Central American Agricultural Council according to their roles, competences and responsibilities in the implementation of the policy.

The strategic area for an effective institutional articulation establishes the following components and measures:

A5.C1. Effective Articulation of national public policies within the framework of regional policies of SICA.

- A.5.C1.M1.: Articulate the implementation of national public policies with regional policies.
- A.5.C1.M2. Articulate the Regional Agricultural Policy with other regional instruments of SICA.

A5.C2. Articulation of regional projects within the framework of CAC.

- A.5.C2.M1. Develop and apply instruments of design, follow-up and evaluation of regional projects.

A5.C3. Support the improvement of capabilities of the Ministries of Agriculture from CAC member countries.

- A.5.C3.M1. Improve the technical capacities of the Ministries of Agriculture from CAC member countries.





VI. Articulation Strategies

These are fundamental mechanisms to implement the policy, through lines and measures of actions around the five strategic areas, inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination and articulation coupled with the accompaniment of regional e international cooperation, as well as the establishment of strategies that link to the following policies:

- The Central American Strategy on Territorial Rural Development (ECAD-ERT) on issues of social and production inclusion with a focus on territorial rural development.
- The Policy on Family Farming, Farmers, Indigenous and Afro descendent Agriculture in Central America and The Dominican Republic (PAFCIA), with a differentiated treatment on Family Farming for food security and nutrition.
- The Strategy on Sustainable Development Adapted to Climate Change (EASAC), as an instrument of adaptation on climate vulnerabilities and the conservation of biodiversity.



VII. Organization of the Implementation

Currently, CAC has a consolidated institutional framework that engages eight countries from the SICA Region as full members, and includes several specialized Regional Technical Groups, a Regional technical committee that coordinates and follow-ups on the regional agenda and an Executive Secretariat with full functional autonomy and its own legal entity status, as well as technical and financial support bodies articulated with the regional agenda of the sector.

One of the organizational objectives of SICA's new Agricultural Policy is to simplify the institutional framework of regional policies and strategies of the sector, in order to avoid institutional dispersion, rational use of resources and the alignment of CAC's integral structure with this policy.

From this perspective, the implementation of the Policy will consider the current structure of the Central American Agricultural Council, and therefore the functions of each of the bodies will be as follows:

Council of Ministers: is the maximum authority of CAC, which defines the political and strategic orientation for the implementation of the policy.

Regional technical committee: coordinates the technical work and follows up on the national and regional implementation of the regional agricultural policy, and also coordinates other policies, strategies and regional projects related directly to the agricultural sector and rural development.

Regional Technical Groups: Identifies and manages short-, mid- and long-term regional actions within the framework of presidential, sector and regional inter-sectoral policies, strategies and agreements based on the guidelines and themed areas prioritized by the Council of Ministers, as well as its articulation in each of the member countries.

Technical Groups must articulate their actions in order to approach each strategic area of the policy. However, leadership must also be aligned with the themes of each group, such as indicated below:

Strategic area	Technical Group Leader
Competitiveness and agro-business	Competitiveness, Trade and agro-business
Sustainable Development Adapted to Climate Change	Climate Change and Integral Risk Management
Innovation and technological development	Research, technology, transfer and innovation
Agricultural health and food safety	Agricultural health and Food safety
Implementation of PAFCIA	Family Farming
Effective institutional articulation	Regional technical committee

Executive Secretariat: provides technical and administrative support to the Council of Ministers, Regional technical committee and the Regional Technical Groups to implement the policy. Similarly, the Executive Secretariat must establish the necessary coordination with other institutions of SICA and support bodies that are directly related to the implementation of the policy.

Furthermore, in coordination with the Regional technical committee, Regional Technical Groups and corresponding support bodies, CAC's Executive Secretariat must elaborate a 3-year policy implementation action plan, which must include a mobilization strategy for technical and financial resources.



VIII. Policy Monitoring and Evaluation


As an indispensable part of managing the Policy, this section introduces a proposal for a Regional Monitoring and Evaluation System (MES), its implementation plan, as well as regional projects corresponding to the lines of action presented in the strategic area of an effective inter-institutional articulation.

The proposal of MES is to incorporate strategic guidelines in order to define the assessment of SICA's Agricultural Policy, considering the implementation instruments, so that the Central American Agricultural Council may:

- Effectively and efficiently manage the results of the Policy.
- Facilitate the learning and participation of the corresponding bodies
- Strengthen the decision-making process in CAC regional bodies, generating evidence based on follow-ups, progress monitoring and evaluation of results.
- Reinforce transparency of management, and information and communication processes, and the accountability instrumental framework of member countries and strategic partners, as well as adequate spaces for reflection and dialogue which supports the governance process of the Policy.

The MES will use a strategic management focus aimed at creating an impact in terms of development. It will be aligned to the policy's cycle and will be participative-based; the Ministries of Agriculture must assume an active and collaborative role.

The establishment of a Framework of Policy Outcomes, follow-up indicators and the definition of baseline with key system elements. This framework will incorporate a MES schedule, which will include yearly follow-up actions, as well as two external assessments: one half way through the implementation of the Policy in order to observe progress made and provide proper feedback on the management of Policy outcomes, and the other, once completed to estimate the impact of the policy.



In this regard, CAC's Executive Secretariat will handle the strategic direction and management of MES. Follow up on regional actions implemented at a national level will correspond to the CAC's Regional Technical Committee, which will define the dependencies within the organization to support the record and communication of information regarding the progress and results of the policy.

The SECAC must submit a semi-annual PAR implementation report to the Regional technical Committee. This will also be taken into consideration by the CAC's Council of Ministers with the intention of establishing orientations and strategic guidelines for an effective continuation of the policy.

*Printed at IICA Print Shop
IICA Headquarters, San Jose, Costa Rica
Press Run: 100 copies*